Subject: EPA Priorities for Per- and Polyfluoroalkylated Substances (PFAS) to Support Efforts by Regions, States and other Federal Agencies

Goal: To obtain Administrator Pruitt's feedback on proposed EPA priorities related to PFAS

Background:

- Per- and polyfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS) are a large family of man-made, globally-distributed chemicals that include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)
    - PFAS have been used widely in consumer products, food packaging, aqueous firefighting foams, and in certain industrial processes
    - PFAS are persistent in the human body and the environment
    - There is concern about the potential adverse health effects of PFAS in exposed populations
- PFAS have been detected at sites across the country, in drinking water and other waters
- EPA is working with federal partners, states, tribes, communities, and industry to address public concerns related to PFAS, including PFOS and PFOA
- The EPA Office of Science Advisor has created and will manage a cross-agency senior-level coordinating committee charged with ensuring complementariness, coordination, and timeliness across PFAS priority areas

Senior leaders from across EPA (ORD; OW; OLEM; OCSPP; Regions 1, 3, 4 and 5) recommend that EPA focus on the following priorities areas, allowing EPA to best support efforts by Regions, States, and other Federal agencies:

1. Addressing public concerns and informing risk mitigation activities by filling data gaps related to human health toxicity. Specific needs include:
    - Identifying how PFAS affect human health and at what exposure level
    - Consistent guidance on clean-up levels

    Current EPA activities include:
    - Determining the top 30 PFAS of concern, including PFAS that are found in the environment and those for which information is needed for decision-making (Cross-Agency)
    - Using new alternative methods (e.g., ORD computational toxicology tools) to better understand the potential risk of data-poor PFAS found in the environment (Cross-Agency)

2. Establishing validated methods for measuring the amount of PFAS in different environmental media and for biomonitoring. Accurate measurements are critical for estimating exposures and estimating risk. Specific needs include:
    - Validated laboratory methods to measure PFAS in non-drinking water (e.g., groundwater), solids (e.g., soil), and human samples
    - Guidelines for generating high-quality, reliable data on PFAS levels in water and solids
    - Access to laboratories capable of measuring PFAS in water and solids

    Current EPA Activities:
    - Developing and validating analytical methods to measure PFAS in water and soil (Cross-Agency)
    - Identifying and addressing federal, state, and commercial laboratory capacity issues (Cross-Agency)

3. Reducing PFAS exposures by limiting production of potentially hazardous PFAS and by assisting states and federal partners in the remediation of environmental media. Specific needs include:
    - Identifying safer alternatives for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS of concern
    - Supporting state and federal partners in PFAS hotspots across the country with analytical and technical support

    Current EPA Activities:
    - Reviewing hundreds of pre-market alternatives to identify toxicity and fate and bioaccumulation issues of concern before they enter the marketplace (OCSPP)
    - Actively engaged in PFAS clean-up processes at Federal Facilities and National Priorities List sites (OLEM/Regions)

4. Improving risk communication efforts to ensure the accurate and timely communication of information to the public, and other partners (e.g. local governments, tribes, industry). Specific needs include:
    - Accurate and consistent communication of PFAS risks in general and at specific sites across the country

    Current EPA Activities:
    - Working with ECOS and ASTHO to put together a risk communication plan that can be used nationwide (Cross-Agency)

Next Steps:

- The EPA Cross-Agency PFAS Coordination Committee, chaired by the Office of the Science Advisor, will continue to coordinate ongoing PFAS activities to ensure that EPA's efforts are focused and non-duplicative.
- The Committee will continue to work with ECOS to ensure that the priorities identified above meet state needs and to identify products that will be useful for states.
- The Committee will check in with the Administrator, or his designee, routinely.